

FALL PROTECTION NEWS BULLETIN

26 April 2001

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS UPDATE

- 1. The American National Standard Institute ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Standards Subcommittee periodic meetings will be held in Denver Colorado between 30 April and 2 May 2001. The meetings will cover the following standards:**
 - **ANSI Z359.0 Fall Protection Program:** The initial draft was prepared and will be discussed during the upcoming meeting. The draft standards include the management of fall protection program and including FP during planning, design, construction and maintenance phases of work.
 - **ANSI Z359.2 Positioning and Restraint Systems:** One of the main upcoming changes to the standards include the following:
 - Body belts will only be allowed in a positioning device system, if they incorporated in full body or sit harness.
 - The anchorage strength for a restraining system will be 5,000 pounds. Body belts will not be allowed in a restraining system, only the use of full body harness will be allowed.
 - **ANSI Z359.3 Assisted and Self Rescue Systems**
- 2. The International Standards Organization ISO/TC94/SC4, for drafting international fall protection standards will have its annual working group meetings in Sydney Australia on 29-31 May 2001. The US will be represented by delegation comprised of 9 members. The working group meetings will cover horizontal lifelines, Work Positioning and Travel Restraint Systems and Rope Access standards. Presently, there are no Rope Access Standards in the United States. Rope Access system has very limited use in the US. This system is widely used in Europe.**
- 3. ANSI Z359 committee (Fall Protection Standards Committee) forwarded an official letter to ANSI A92.6 Committee (Scissors lift standards committee) requesting a change in the scissors lift standards for tying off even if the scissors lift is equipped with a guard rails system.**

4. **ANSI Z359 committee forwarded another official letter to ANSI B56.1 committee (Fork lift Standards Committee) requesting to change the standards to prohibit the use of body belts when using fork lifts; use only full body harness.**

MISCLELENOUS NEWS

1. **The Navy Quality Council is working on a new initiative for the reduction of fall mishaps within the Navy focusing on awareness, technical assistance and the execution of fall protection projects within the Navy, both ashore and afloat. A Fall Protection Quality Management Board (FP QMB) was formed to work on several goals and objectives. The FP QMB will also provide the tools, criteria, and safe practices to ensure viable fall protection programs at all ships and ashore commands.**
2. **The International Society Of Fall Protection Symposium was held in Orlando Florida in October 2000. The symposium provided valuable fall protection information from various countries. The symposium included 26 presentations and point papers that provided an added perspective on various fall protection issues. The presentations included various subject such as Construction Safety, Horizontal Lifeline Design new approach, Mobile Scaffolds, Slips trips and falls, Same Level Falls, Rope Access, Statistics, Tower Hazards, Equipment Selection and Anchor Points, Fall Protection Planning and other papers and presentations. I will provide few presentations periodically.**
3. **Included with this newsletter are two presentations from the International FP Symposium, the first one titled Equipment Selection and Anchor points and the second titled Fall Protection Planning. Both were presented by LJB Inc.**
4. **OSHA has published several documents and interpretations relative to fall protection requirements in residential construction. As a result of OSHA interpretations, there is an inconsistency in how various Navy Commands are addressing fall protection for residential construction and allowing contractors to comply with such interpretations. This is because of various contract actions. As stated in FAR clause 52.2360-13, the USACE manual shall be included and enforced on all DOD contracts involving construction, dismantling,**

demolition, or removal work. Some of the ROICCs complain that while they are enforcing the USACE manual on one project, another contract action does not; although both projects are at the same activity. The USACE Manual section 21 Safe Access and Fall Protection does not differentiate between residential and non-residential construction. Navy property is Federal land and should not be considered residential construction. We have to comply with the most stringent requirements.

5. Recently, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division has published numerous fall protection documents on their web site. These are very useful and helpful documents. You could use the search engine to look for various fall protection documents. The address for the site is: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/>. The following is a sample of such information:

- Fall Protection responding to emergencies;
- Interim Inspection Procedures during communication Tower Construction;
- Fall Protection for Roofing
- Inspection procedures for scaffolds used in construction;
- Scaffolds (Temporary elevated work platforms).

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